

# Integrative Critical Analysis Towards Promoting Access and Success in Postgraduate Studies: A Case Study

Ntseno, C. (Ntseno, C. ) (/wcqr-2024/authors/caswell-ntseno?lang=en)<sup>1</sup>

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Project Abstract

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HOW TO CITE THIS PAPER?

## Abstract

This study focuses on the crucial role of postgraduate programs in higher education institutions, serving as vital avenues for developing research capacity and fostering advanced skills that contribute to societal progress. Distinguishing between academic and professional degrees, the latter demands a unique set of graduate attributes encompassing academic prowess, social acumen, personal development, and practical work experience.

At the center of our investigation is the online Master of Divinity program, designed for candidates with above-average undergraduate grades, irrespective of their theological background. Noteworthy is the program's distinction – students enroll while actively engaged in their professional and ministry roles, setting it apart from traditional on-campus postgraduate pursuits.

Adopting a descriptive, qualitative, and appreciative inquiry approach, this study delves into the collection, analysis, and utilization of information to identify strengths and areas for improvement. This method serves as a valuable tool for planning, monitoring, and evaluating developmental processes, and in this case, it forms the basis for evaluating access and success in the Master of Divinity program at the South African Theological Seminary.

Employing an Integrative Critical Analysis, the study systematically reviews existing literature on professional postgraduate studies. It aims to distill insights from various scholars regarding the impact of well-designed, supported and delivered professional degree programs on both theoretical understanding and practical application. Specifically, the research evaluates the quality of online postgraduate programs, contributing to the current knowledge base on the subject.

Central to the findings is the recognition of how SATS has significantly increased participation rates among previously disadvantaged population groups, attaining success in key areas of postgraduate studies. This study sheds light on the transformative impact of the Master of Divinity program and underscores its role in broadening access and promoting success in postgraduate education.

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## Institutions

<sup>1</sup> Global Centre for Academic Research (GCAR)

## Track

- 2. Qualitative Research in Education

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